

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force Meeting Minutes March 16, 2017

Vision: For Asheville to be a community of connected pathways that is healthy, safe and accessible for people of all ages.

Mission: To educate the public about bicycle and pedestrian transportation; to advocate for the development and maintenance of safe, convenient and inter-connected facilities; to promote the benefits of walking and biking for individuals and community health.

Attending: Janet Barlow, Billie Lofland, Terri March, Barb Mee, Stacy Merten, Claudia Nix, Ofc. Meg Pigman, Stuart Rohrbaugh and Tristan Winkler, Han Wiinogron.

Introduction & Administrative Details

Facilitator: Janet Barlow
Minute Taker: Billie Lofland
Minutes: Aproved

Speaker/Presentation: Stacy Merten, Project Manager, Asheville Comprehensive Plan

Stacy Merten for the City of Asheville gave a presentation about the ongoing Comprehensive Plan process. She made the following key points:

- The Comprehensive Plan is a policy guidance plan.
- A goal for this Comp Plan is to have specific goals and objectives outlined. These ties in with the focus on having the plan guide implementation of City activities.
- The Plan should be completed by the Fall of 2017
- The website for the Comprehensive Plan is, http://www.ashevillenc.gov/departments/urban_design/comprehensive_plan/default.htm
- The process stresses public input. There have been open public meetings, neighborhood meetings and meetings with stakeholders. There will be additional meetings when the draft Plan is presented to the public.

There was discussion about the presentation. The importance of focusing on equity and actual implementation of the new Comp Plan was emphasized. It was noted that there is an ongoing conflict between the goals of NCDOT and the City of Asheville in terms of how to address transportation issues.

Open Discussion/Project Work

- Walk friendly Work Group report on February 24th.
 - The meeting focused on identifying main issues and activities to include in the new Asheville Pedestrian Master Plan and ADA Update.
 - Members agreed to choose plans from other cities/states to review to compare with the 2005 Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Website Update: Billie noted that the Walk-Friend Workgroup had suggested putting the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Communities and Silver Walk-Friendly Communities designations on the BPTF website. She provided a print out of the Home page and suggested that the designations go just under the main banner. The group agreed. Those attending also decided that only local, state and national organizations should be listed in the Resources section of the website, There will be a few exceptions, such as the Bike Law website:
<https://www.bikelaw.com/>

Regular Updates

- Asheville/Fire/Rescue: Officer Meg Pigman
 - Officer Pigman reported that the City of Asheville provided a letter in support of participating in the Watch For Me NC program.
 - There was discussion on how to market the program this year. A suggestion was made to use humor.
 - There was a question as to whether APD has a schedule for traffic radar programs, and if so, are there priority areas. Ofc. Pigmna said that APD has three Traffic Districts with a go-to officer for each district. Residents can put in a request for a street to be evaluated.
- Multimodal Commission: Report:
 - Billie Lofland gave a brief update from the March MMTC AIM Implementation Task Force Meeting. She said the group has agreed to focus on implementing the Vision Zero process in the City of Asheville
 - Terri March noted the following two issues that were coming up before the MMTC's March meeting: The name change request for Clingman Forest Greenway to Bacoate Branch Greenway.
- French Broad MPO: Tristan Winkler reported on the MPO's Surface Transportation Block Grant funds and that it is getting ready to advertise its Draft 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Asheville/Buncombe updates—There was no update because of time limitatons

Next meeting: April 20 at 5:30 pm